



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - August 21, 2003**

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers associated with the summer rainy season are spreading northward through the ***Great Basin*** and portions of the ***Intermountain region***, easing irrigation demands and providing limited drought relief, but causing localized flash flooding.
- ***On the Plains***, hot, dry weather favors fieldwork but is causing further deterioration of pastures and immature summer crops.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, hot weather and limited soil moisture reserves continue to stress filling summer crops across ***Missouri, southern Iowa***, and parts of ***Illinois***. Meanwhile, favorably cooler air is overspreading the ***northwestern Corn Belt***, although soil moisture shortages persist in many areas.
- ***In the South***, hot, dry weather from the ***Delta westward*** is promoting summer crop maturation and harvesting. In contrast, locally heavy thundershowers dot in the ***Southeast***, where drier weather will be needed in coming weeks as cotton bolls continue to open.

**Outlook:** Locally heavy showers will persist through week's end across ***Southeastern and Gulf Coast States***, while warm, muggy conditions will briefly return to the ***Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States***. Meanwhile, a cold front will trigger scattered showers and thunderstorms from the ***central Plains eastward into the Ohio Valley***, with showers reaching the ***Atlantic Coast*** by Friday. In the ***West***, a series of weak disturbances will trigger showers and thunderstorms from the ***High Plains west to the Pacific Coast***, providing occasional relief from drought and persistent heat. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 26-30 calls for above-normal rainfall in the ***Southwest, southern Plains, and northernmost Rockies and Plains***, while drier-than-normal conditions are likely in the ***northern Great Basin, central Rockies, and across the eastern half of the Nation***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the majority of the U.S., as cooler-than-normal weather will be restricted to the ***Northeast***.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>